

S/N 10/550865

PATENTREMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested. Claims 1-11 remain pending. Applicants courteously request acknowledgement of the perfection of the claim for priority in the international stage.

Claims 1-11 were rejected as unpatentable over Canadian Patent No. 2,474,651 in view of JP 1981-0137729 (Yokoyama et al.). Canadian Patent No. 2,474,651 has a PCT Publication date of October 2, 2003. The present application has a priority date of April 9, 2003. A verified translation of the priority application is filed herewith. Therefore, Canadian '651 does not qualify as prior art and the rejection should be withdrawn. Applicants are not conceding the correctness of the rejection.

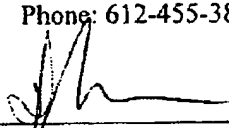
In view of the above, Applicants request reconsideration of the application in the form of a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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